

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION MEETING

**Public Hearing 7:00 p.m. Wed., Jan. 21, 2004
Fish and Game Headquarters, Boise, ID**

Commissioners Hadley, Irby, Watts, Gibbs, Wheeler, Burns, attending.

1. Michael Stewart, Bruneau Unit 39 elk, wants a cap on tags and move the hunt out of Nov, back into Oct. On Unit 41, sees low buck numbers and low deer numbers, would like controlled hunt only. On leftover tags, thinks the last year went well at his vendorship in Bruneau. Suggests one license, one transaction per customer.
2. Jim Hagedorn, Viola, Concerned Sportsmen of Idaho. Critical of the way the whitetail survey was written, says you had to answer yes to all 11 questions. Suspicious that the commission will be asked to expand harvest in Clearwater because of the outbreak of EHD this year. Suggests that whitetail and mule deer should be managed separately. Stop mule deer hunting in Units 8, 8a and 10a and end the overlap of deer and elk in these units. Stop selling unsold nonresident deer tags.
3. Al Marion, Garden Valley. Muzzle loader ignition, supports use of musket caps as proposed, but not use of 209 shotgun primers because manufacturers of these muzzleloaders engage in advertising that is untrue and builds false expectations of performance and will encourage shots at unrealistic ranges. Suggests that the rule for muzzleloader bullets used for deer, elk, mountain lion and antelope should be at least .490 caliber or weigh at least 240 grain. Also that for elk, moose, bighorns, goats or black bear, the bullet should be at least .490 caliber or weigh 300 grains. These changes from the current ".428 caliber" would force usage of more effective conical, heavier bullets.
4. Mike Murray, Idaho Muzzleloader Assn. opposing use of the 209 primer. Would like to see the words "any other synthetic powder" should be changed to "loose powder."
5. Larry Lombard, Emmett, would like to see "great plains bullets" and "buffalo bullets" included as legal in traditional muzzleloader hunts.
6. Brent ? Idaho houndsmen association would like to support a scholarship, study on lions or other project with funds accumulated by his organization. Would like to return to female quota in Upper Snake for long enough to gather data with meaning.

7. Cherie Barton, Boise, Idaho Wildlife Federation. Strongly opposed to hunting animals in confinement and supports the proposed change. However, IWF opposes allowing hunters to buy more than one leftover nonresident tags.
8. Bryan Sprague, American Falls, chapter chair of Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, has complete frustration with regional F&G staff. Feels mule deer herd in the area is 25 percent of that in late 80s because of over-harvest of does allowed by FG, while habitat has not radically changed. Suggests more predator control, elimination of all doe hunts, better monitoring of herd numbers and ratios. Says it is hard to get information from Fish and Game.
9. Jack Fisher, Nampa, F&G advisory committee. Thinks the Access Yes funding proposal is very well written and supports it as written. Representing the Idaho State Bowhunters, supports retaining the rule on 65 percent letoff. Every new innovation takes something away from the primitive quality of archery and muzzleloader hunting. Supports the "choose your weapon" concept.
10. Larry Velvick, Emmett, Black Canyon Bowmen, group wants to keep the 65 percent letoff rule.
11. Tom Judge, Boise, Idaho State Bowhunters, group wants to keep the 65 percent letoff rule, with support from all organized archery clubs. Every technological advance takes something away from the primitive quality of archery and muzzleloader hunting. Keeping the more primitive rules will reduce success and help maintain more hunting opportunity.
12. Travis Bullock, IOGA and Mile High Outfitters. Reports good elk numbers, but low bull ratio. Deer numbers are increasing as are hunter numbers in controlled hunts.
13. Ed Lindahl, Moscow, Clearwater Elk Recovery Team, compliments dept. and commission for appeal of a USFS project because of a lack of disturbance to forest. We need more openings in the forest to feed the elk.
14. Kelton Larson, Preston, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, applauds the Gov. for his stand on wolves. Wants to reduce late muzzleloader hunt in unit 75 to 50 permits, a management goal of 25 bucks to 100 does post-season, keep elk populations at current levels not higher, aggressive predator management and do away with the \$17 nonresident youth deer tag.
15. Jim Nunley, Meridian. Notes media coverage of elk and deer falling through the ice and was reminded of deer killed on RR tracks in eastern

Idaho. Wonders if anyone knows about why the situation occurs and can anything be done.

16. Bob Minter, Boise, Ada County Fish and Game League, which supports doing away with the requirement to transport the lower jaw of male elk or deer; supports the proposal to modify the current motorized travel restriction; supports modification of controlled hunt permits; supports choose your weapon; supports the mandatory check of mountain lion and removal of molar tooth; supports proposal to make it unlawful to take wild game in an enclosure; supports the proposal on nonresident junior mentored hunting license; DOES NOT support proposal to sell more than one leftover nonresident tag per person; supports changing the 65 percent archery letoff rule and allowing 209 primers for muzzleloaders but says it would not be a big issue if these two rule changes were not approved.
17. Delmar Phillips, Emmett, says FG built a pond for a neighbor a year ago and wants to know if it was true. Reports a helicopter and eight FG personnel seen in the area and wants to know what it costs. Thinks money is not well managed. Brad Compton reports one operation was elk collaring paid for by RMEF. The other was fawn monitoring.
18. Johnathan Matthews, commends the idea of a management plan specific to whitetail deer. Reports seeing lots of mule deer in Unit 75 last year but no mature bucks. Supports the ATV restrictions being implemented. Comments on over-grazing in the area. Supports allowing hunters to buy more than one leftover nonres tag.
19. Ken Hanson, southeast Idaho, does not support proposals to change archery or muzzleloader rules. Figures ATV use in southeast Idaho is contributing to decrease in quality of hunt in southeast Idaho.

Bruce Horton, Eagle Rock Long Rifles and Portneuf Muzzleloaders in Pocatello does not support use of 209 primers.
